



## CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

September 7, 2000

### **H.R. 4521**

**A bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior to authorize and provide funding for rehabilitation of the Going-to-the-Sun Road in Glacier National Park and to authorize funding for maintenance of utilities related to the park, and for other purposes**

*As ordered reported by the House Committee on Resources on July 26, 2000*

#### **SUMMARY**

Assuming appropriation of the necessary amounts, CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 4521 would cost the federal government \$241 million over the next six years. The bill would not affect direct spending or receipts; therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures would not apply. The bill contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA) and would not affect the budgets of state, local, or tribal governments.

H.R. 4521 would direct the Secretary of the Interior to improve the infrastructure of Glacier National Park in Montana. Specifically, the bill would require the National Park Service (NPS) to (1) rehabilitate the Going-to-the-Sun Road, which provides access to the interior of the park; (2) upgrade the park's utilities, and (3) plan and develop visitor facilities, including a new visitor center at the west side. For these purposes, the bill would authorize the appropriation of \$200 million for road rehabilitation (including the cost of providing alternative transportation and assistance to local residents affected by this project), \$20 million for utility upgrades, and \$1 million for a comprehensive plan of visitor facilities.

#### **ESTIMATED COST TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT**

The estimated budgetary impact of H.R. 4521 is shown in the following table. The costs of this legislation fall within budget function 300 (natural resources and environment).

	By Fiscal Year, in Millions of Dollars				
	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
<b>CHANGES IN SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION</b>					
Estimated Authorization Level	11	30	70	80	50
Estimated Outlays	8	24	58	77	59

## **BASIS OF ESTIMATE**

While the cost of implementing H.R. 4521 would depend on the alternatives chosen by the NPS after it completes the various studies and plans required by the bill, CBO estimates that the agency would spend the \$221 million authorized by the bill, plus an additional \$20 million to construct new visitor facilities. The timing of these expenditures also would depend greatly on the alternatives chosen, particularly for road rehabilitation. This project, which would cost about \$200 million, could be completed in four years (if the road is closed during construction) but could take as many as 12. For this estimate, we estimate that the NPS would choose a plan that would allow most of the work on the road, the utilities, and a new visitor center to be done over the next five years.

Because all of the these projects could be funded under existing authority (and are already being planned), some or all of these funds could be spent even in the absence of this legislation. This estimate is based on information provided by the NPS and assumes the appropriation of the necessary amounts.

**PAY-AS-YOU-GO CONSIDERATIONS:** None.

## **INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND PRIVATE-SECTOR IMPACT**

H.R. 4521 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA and would not affect the budgets of state, local, or tribal governments.

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